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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Yoshinori Endo

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EXAMINER

QIN, YIXING

ART UNIT

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2625

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/690,529	Applicant(s) ENDO, YOSHINORI	
	Examiner Yixing Qin	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 May 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

In response to applicant's amendment received 5/30/08, all requested changes have been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, have been fully considered and are persuasive. The previous rejection has been withdrawn. However, new references, Oyanagi (U.S. PG Pub. No. 2002/0114001) and Henkhaus et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,654,895), is cited to show various aspects of the claimed invention. Oyanagi discloses a selective reset function whereby if a reset signal is received by a multifunction printer, it is possible to selectively reset only one function of the multifunction printer (i.e. reset the printing function/portion and not have to reset the scanning portion.). Oyanagi does not, however, go into detail regarding the user validation or invalidation of the execution of the reset signal. Henkhaus et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,654,895) discloses the ability to have a user selectively reset a computer after a warmup (i.e. analogous to reset) command is executed. The user has the ability to allow the warmup to continue automatically or to prevent the execution of the warming up process (i.e. validate or invalidate the reset process). The combination of the teachings of these two references suggests the claimed invention below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 2 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oyanagi (U.S. PG Pub. No. 2002/0114001) in view of Henkaus (U. S. Patent No. 6,654,895) and further in view of Kataoka (U.S. Patent No. 5,602,975)

Regarding claim 1, Henkhaus discloses an image forming device connected to an external device, the image forming device comprising:

an image forming unit forming images on a recording medium; (Fig. 1 – print engine 24)

a reception unit receiving a reset signal transmitted from an external device; (P[0012] - multifunction printer has a reception means for accepting a reset command.)

a reset process unit executing a reset process to reset the image forming unit; (P[0014] – the CPU can be used to perform the reset)

It does not explicitly disclose “a reset process control unit selectively controlling the reset process unit to execute the reset process in a manner that the reset process control unit controls, during a reset signal valid mode, the reset process unit to execute

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the reset process upon receipt of the reset signal and that the reset process control unit ignores, during a reset signal invalid mode, input of the reset signal, and fails to control the reset process unit to execute the reset process; and

a selecting unit enabling a user to select one mode from among the reset signal valid mode and the reset signal invalid mode. ”

However, Henkhaus discloses in column 4, line 64-column 5, line 6 discloses that a user can select whether to perform the warm up operation or not (i.e. validate or invalidate the warming up – analogous to a reset – operation). Column 3, lines 23-33, processor 112 controls the signals to the other devices through the bus. Similar to the Oyanagi invention, Henkhaus uses the CPU as the reset process unit that controls the resetting process. Thus, one of ordinary skill would realize that even though that the above operation as described by Henkhaus is for a computer, one can easily adapt this to other types of machines such as a printer. The advantages would be clear in that, just like a computer, sometimes one would not want to power up certain devices such a printer due to the how much the printer would be used.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have use a processor as a reset process control unit.

The motivation would have been to use a readily available module to perform the reset process.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to alter Henkhaus to obtain the invention as specified.

Regarding claim 2, the secondary reference, Henkhaus discloses an image forming device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a reset signal valid mode setting unit judging, when the reception unit receives the reset signal, whether or not the user has selected the reset signal valid mode, and setting the reset process control unit into the reset signal valid mode when the user has selected the reset signal valid mode; (column 4, line 64-column 5, line 6. The user interface module 220 acts as a selection judging unit that accepts the user's input and then goes to perform the reset valid or invalid mode.) and

a reset signal invalid mode setting unit judging, when the reception unit receives the reset signal, whether or not the user has selected the reset signal invalid mode, and setting the reset process control unit into the reset signal invalid mode when the user has selected the reset signal invalid mode. (column 4, line 64-column 5, line 6. Again, the interface module 220 acts as a judging unit. The two units are simply implemented as one in the Henkhaus reference.)

Regarding claim 3, Oyanagi discloses an image forming device according to claim 2, further comprising:

The Henkhaus reference discloses bringing a computer into a sleep mode.

It does not explicitly disclose “a sleep mode control unit bringing the image forming unit into a sleep mode when no print job is inputted within a prescribed time after the image forming unit has completed a printing process, the image forming unit

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being capable of receiving a print job during the sleep mode and consuming power less than while the image forming unit is executing a printing process;”

However, Kataoka discloses in column 6, line 60 to column 7, line 4 and column 3, lines 12-43 that the printer can be put into a sleep mode and woken up by reception of print data.

Henkhaus and Kataoka are combinable because both are in the field of saving power. Henkhaus' display unit is one type of image forming device in which power can be selectively sent to.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used the criteria for entering a sleep mode of Kataoka in the Henkhaus invention.

The motivation would have been to provide a reasonable scenario as to when to power down a peripheral for saving energy.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Henkhaus and Kataoka to obtain the invention as specified.

and a sleep-mode judging unit judging, when the reception unit receives the reset signal, whether or not the image forming unit is being in the sleep mode. (column 4, lines 22-37)

Regarding claim 4, Oyanagi discloses an image forming device according to claim 3, and Henkhaus discloses wherein when the sleep-mode judging unit determines that the image forming unit is being in the sleep mode, the reset process control unit in the reset signal valid mode controls the sleep mode control unit to

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cancel the sleep mode and controls the reset process unit to execute the reset process (Henkhaus - column 4, line 64-column 5, line 6.), and wherein when the sleep-mode judging unit determines that the image forming unit is being in the sleep mode, the reset process control unit in the reset signal invalid mode controls the sleep mode control unit to fail to cancel the sleep mode and the reset process unit to fail to execute the reset process. (Henkhaus - column 4, line 64-column 5, line 6 – the computer (and thus the display 125) are in one of the sleep modes. See column 1, line 43 – column 2, line 4)

Regarding claim 5, Oyanagi discloses an image forming device according to claim 4, further comprising an auto-select mode setting unit setting, when the reception unit receives the reset signal, the reset process control unit into either one of the reset signal valid mode and the reset signal invalid mode automatically dependently on the determined results of the sleep-mode judging unit. (Henkhaus - column 5, lines 15-26 – depending on how the user uses the system, it may or may not be automatically turned on.)

Regarding claim 6, Oyanagi discloses an image forming device according to claim 5, wherein the auto-select mode setting unit sets the reset process control unit into the reset signal valid mode when the sleep-mode judging unit determines that the image forming unit is not in the sleep mode (Henkhaus - column 4, line 22-37), the auto-select mode setting unit setting the reset process control unit into the reset signal invalid mode when the sleep-mode judging unit determines that the image forming unit is in the sleep mode. (Henkhaus - column 4, lines 22-37)

Regarding claim 7, Oyanagi discloses an image forming device according to claim 2, further comprising an auto-select mode setting unit setting the reset process control unit into either one of the reset signal valid mode and the reset signal invalid mode automatically dependently on an operation state of the image forming unit (Henkhaus - column 5, lines 15-26 – depending on how the user uses the system, it may or may not be automatically turned on.), wherein the selecting unit enables the user to select one mode from among the reset signal valid mode, the reset signal invalid mode, and the auto-select mode, the selecting unit enabling the auto-select mode setting unit to perform its setting operation when the user has selected the auto-select mode. (Henkhaus - column 4, line 64-column 5, line 6)

Regarding claim 8, Oyanagi discloses an image forming device according to claim 7, and Henkhaus discloses wherein the auto-select mode setting unit judges whether the image forming unit is in a sleep mode when the reception unit receives the reset signal (column 4, lines 22-37), the auto-select mode setting unit setting the reset process control unit into the reset signal valid mode when the image forming unit is not in the sleep mode, the auto-select mode setting unit setting the reset process control unit into the reset signal invalid mode when the image forming unit is in the sleep mode. (column 4, lines 22-37)

Regarding claim 9, Oyanagi discloses an image forming device according to claim 1, and Henkhaus discloses wherein the selecting unit enables the user to select one mode from among at least two of the reset signal valid mode, the reset signal invalid mode, and an auto-select mode; (column 4, line 64-column 5, line 6)

the image forming device further comprising:

a display unit displaying results of the user's selection attained by the selecting unit; (, Kataoka discloses this in column 2, line 15-26)

a mode setting unit executing a setting operation when the reception unit receives the reset signal, the mode setting unit setting the reset process control unit into the reset signal valid mode when the user has selected the reset signal valid mode, setting the reset process control unit into the reset signal invalid mode when the user has selected the reset signal invalid mode, and setting the reset process control unit into the auto-select mode when the user has selected the auto-select model; (Henkhaus - column 4, line 64-column 5, line 6. one of the modes is set according to the user's selection) and

a sleep-mode judging unit judging, when the reset process control unit is set into the auto-select mode, whether the image forming unit is in a sleep mode, and setting the reset process control unit in the auto-select mode into the reset signal valid mode when the image forming unit is not in the sleep mode and setting the reset process control unit in the auto-select mode into the reset signal invalid mode when the image forming unit is in the sleep mode. (Henkhaus - column 4, lines 22-37, and line 64-column 5, line 7 – the auto select wakeup is dependent on the state of the system and the usage pattern of the user. The automatic warmup doesn't not always occur and can be set to valid or invalid modes.)

Regarding claim 10, Oyanagi discloses an image forming device according to claim 1, wherein the reception unit receives the reset signal from the external device at least when power to the external device is turned on. (P[0046].)

Regarding claim 11, the tertiary reference, Kataoka discloses an image forming device according to claim 1, further comprising a warm-up process unit executing a warm-up operation for controlling the image forming unit to perform preparation operation for the printing process; (Fig. 4 item S28 shows the refreshing of the DRAM.)

wherein the reset process unit executes as the reset process a print data initialization process for initializing print data, a print settings data initialization process for initializing print settings data, and a warm-up operation initiation process for directing the warm-up process unit to begin a warm-up operation. (Fig. 4 – switch to normal mode, S22)

Regarding claim 12, Oyanagi discloses an image forming device according to claim 1, wherein the reception unit receives the reset signal, which is transmitted from the external device via a parallel interface cable. (Although is not explicitly stated the kind of cable used, parallel cables have been well known to be able to connect two devices together)

Regarding claim 13, the tertiary reference Kataoka discloses an image forming device according to claim 1, wherein the reception unit includes:

a parallel interface port capable of connecting to the parallel interface cable;
(Fig 7) and

a network port capable of connecting to a network cable; (Fig. 9, connection between item 34 and 70) and

further comprising a reset signal invalid mode auto-select unit automatically setting the reset process control unit into the reset signal invalid mode when the parallel interface cable is connected to the parallel interface port and the network cable is connected to the network port. (Fig. 9 and column 4, line 64-column 5, line 6)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yixing Qin whose telephone number is (571)272-7381. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

YQ

/Edward L. Coles/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625